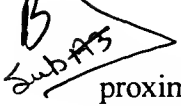


CLAIMSWHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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Sub 1  1. A catheter section comprising an elongate tubular member having a proximal end, a distal end, and a passageway defining a lumen extending between the proximal and distal ends, said elongate tubular member comprising a knit tubular member and an inner tubular liner in coaxial relationship with the knit tubular member.

10 2. The catheter section of claim 1 wherein the knit tubular member comprises a metal alloy.

15 3. The catheter section of claim 1 wherein the knit tubular member comprises a superelastic alloy.

20 4. The catheter section of claim 3 wherein the superelastic alloy is a nickel-titanium alloy.

5. The catheter section of claim 3 wherein the superelastic alloy is nitinol.

25 6. The catheter section of claim 1 wherein the knit tubular member comprises stainless steel.

30 7. The catheter section of claim 1 wherein the knit tubular member comprises a platinum alloy.

8. The catheter section of claim 1 wherein the knit tubular member comprises a non-metallic material.

9. The catheter section of claim 8 wherein the non-metallic material is a polymeric material.

10. The catheter section of claim 1 wherein the knit tubular member comprises a multifilament wire

11. The catheter section of claim 10 wherein the multifilament wire comprises stainless steel and platinum.

12. The catheter section of claim 10 wherein the multifilament wire comprises material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, platinum, and nitinol.

13. The catheter section of claim 1 wherein the knit tubular member is formed from wire having a generally circular cross-sectional shape.

14. The catheter section of claim 13 wherein the wire has a diameter of about 0.3 mil - 1.5 mil.

15. The catheter section of claim 1 wherein the knit tubular member comprises a first strand made from a first material and a second strand made from a second material.

16. The catheter section of claim 1 further comprising an outer tubular cover extending over the knit tubular member.

17. The catheter section of claim 16 wherein the outer tubular cover comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyimide, polyamide, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinylchloride, fluoropolymers including PTFE, FEP, Nylon, polyether block amide, vinylidene fluoride, and their mixtures, alloys, copolymers, and block copolymers.

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18. The catheter section of claim 16 wherein the outer tubular cover comprises a polymer which can be heat-shrunk onto the knit tubular member.

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19. The catheter of claim 16 wherein the outer tubular cover is extruded onto the knit tubular member.

20. The catheter of claim 16 wherein the outer tubular cover is bonded onto the knit tubular member.

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21. The catheter section of claim 16 wherein at least one of the inner tubular liner and the outer tubular cover are radiopaque.

22. The catheter section of claim 1 wherein the inner tubular liner comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, flouropolymer, Nylon, polyether block amide, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), ethyl vinyl acetate (EVA), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), and their mixtures, alloys, and copolymers.

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23. The catheter section of claim 1 wherein the knit tubular member is generally not radially expandable.

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24. A catheter section comprising an elongate tubular member having a proximal end, a distal end, and a passageway defining a lumen extending between the proximal and distal ends, said elongate tubular member comprising an inner liner, an outer cover, and a knit tubular member formed from a metal wire.

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25. The catheter section of claim 24 wherein the metal wire comprises a superelastic alloy.

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26. The catheter section of claim 25 wherein the superelastic alloy is nitinol.

27. The catheter section of claim 24 wherein the metal wire has a generally circular cross-section.

28. The catheter section of claim 24 wherein the metal wire is a multifilament wire.

29. The catheter section of claim 28 wherein the multifilament wire comprises stainless steel and platinum.

30. The catheter section of claim 28 wherein the multifilament wire comprises material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, platinum, and nitinol.

31. A catheter comprising an elongate tubular member having a proximal end, a distal end, and a passageway defining a lumen extending between those ends, said elongate tubular member comprising:

a relatively stiff proximal segment; and

a relatively flexible distal segment comprising a knit tubular member and an inner tubular liner in coaxial relationship with the knit tubular member.

32. The catheter of claim 31 wherein the knit tubular member comprises a superelastic alloy.

33. The catheter of claim 32 wherein the superelastic alloy is nitinol.

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34. The catheter of claim 31 wherein the knit tubular member comprises stainless steel.

5 35. The catheter of claim 31 wherein the knit tubular member comprises a platinum alloy.

36. The catheter of claim 31 wherein the knit tubular member comprises a non-metallic material.

10 37. The catheter of claim 36 wherein the non-metallic material is a polymeric material.

38. The catheter of claim 31 wherein the knit tubular member comprises a multifilament wire.

15 39. The catheter of claim 38 wherein the multifilament wire comprises material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, platinum, and nitinol.

20 40. The catheter of claim 31 wherein the knit tubular member is formed from wire having a generally circular cross-sectional shape.

25 41. The catheter of claim 40 wherein the wire has a diameter of about 0.3 mil. - 1.5 mil.

42. The catheter of claim 31 wherein the knit tubular member comprises a first strand made from a first material and a second strand made from a second material.

30 43. The catheter of claim 31 further comprising an outer tubular cover extending over the knit tubular member.

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51. The catheter of claim 50 wherein the proximal segment further comprises a braid interposed between the inner proximal liner and the outer proximal cover.

52. The catheter of claim 50 wherein the proximal segment further comprises a coil interposed between the inner proximal liner and the outer proximal cover.

53. The catheter of claim 31 wherein the knit tubular member extends into the proximal segment.

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